

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN JUDO LEADERS RESIGN

REF: BONN'S A-51 OF FEBRUARY 22, 1977

BEGIN SUMMARY: THREE YOUNG DEMOCRAT (JUDO) LEADERS HAVE
SUDDENLY RESIGNED, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAKE THE
JUDO'S LOOK A BIT RIDICULOUS AND WHICH WILL PROBABLY MAKE THE
GROUP LESS OF A THORN IN THE FDP'S SIDE FOR AWHILE.
END SUMMARY.

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1. THE CHAIRMAN AND TWO TOP DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE
GERMAN YOUNG DEMOCRATS (JUDO'S), THE YOUTH AFFILIATE OF
THE FDP, SUDDENLY RESIGNED ON APRIL 3. THE JUDO LEADERS
-- RESPECTIVELY: HANSPETER KNIRSCH, MICHAEL KLEFF, AND
GERHARD SCHORR -- TOOK THIS STEP AFTER THE MAJORITY OF
THE JUDO NATIONAL BOARD VOTED AGAINST THEIR TACTICS FOR
SEEKING JUDO PARTICIPATION IN THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS

WHICH ARE BEING ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNIST-INFLUENCED
"COMMITTEE FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT, AND COOPERATION."
ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER, DETLEV OMMEN, WILL SERVE AS
ACTING JUDO CHAIRMAN UNTIL JUNE, WHEN THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS
WILL HOLD A NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO FILL THE THREE EMPTY
SEATS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE DRAMA AROSE WHEN THE JUDO
NATIONAL BOARD MET LAST WEEKEND TO REVIEW TWO
TACTICAL DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE "COMMITTEE":
I.E., WHETHER TO TAKE PART IN THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN
FRANKFURT, MUNICH, ESSEN, AND BREMEN; AND WHETHER TO
SIGN A JOINT DECLARATION CALLING ON ALL CITIZENS
TO PARTICIPATE. REPORTEDLY, KNIRSCH AND HIS ALLIES
FAVORED JUDO PARTICIPATION BUT CHOSE TO MAKE A TEST
CASE OVER THEIR DESIRE TO SEEK EXPLICIT "COMMITTEE"
CONCURRENCE IN CONDITIONS FOR JUDO PARTICIPATION --
E.G., SEPARATE SPEAKERS TO PRESENT JUDO VIEWS ON DIS-
ARMAMENT, ETC. FACED WITH THIS ALL-OR-NOTHING
ATTITUDE, THE JUDO BOARD VOTED 2-1 AGAINST THEM ON
SUNDAY. THEIR RESIGNATIONS FOLLOWED AT ONCE.

3. THE IRONY IS THAT, FOR THE MOMENT, THE RUMP JUDO
BOARD HAS DECIDED NOT TO SIGN THE JOINT DECLARATION OR
TO TAKE PART IN THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS, BECAUSE THE
"COMMITTEE" HAS REFUSED TO DISCUSS ANY CONDITIONS.

4. COMMENT: IN EFFECT, THE JUDO'S HAVE TRUNCATED THEIR
NATIONAL BOARD OVER A CAUSE IN WHICH THEY WILL IN ALL
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LIKELIHOOD PLAY NO ROLE. THIS REINFORCES THE IMPRESSION
THAT THE MANEUVER BY KNIRSCH HAD LESS TO DO WITH THE
SUBSTANCE OF THE MAY DEMONSTRATIONS THAN WITH POWER
RELATIONS INSIDE THE JUDO BOARD. KNIRSCH BARELY WON
REELECTION AS JUDO CHAIRMAN IN FEBRUARY (REF). HIS
ABORTIVE POWER PLAY LAST WEEKEND HAS DRIVEN ANOTHER
WEDGE INTO JUDO RANKS, AND MADE IT LIKELY THAT THE
JUDO'S WILL BE A LESS ANNOYING THORN IN THE SIDE OF
THE FDP, AT LEAST UNTIL THEY ELECT A NEW LEADERSHIP IN
JUNE. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

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